

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to suspend regular programming and air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is nothing less than propaganda for the Republican Party.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We need more substantive news about issues that matter, not propaganda.

Sinclair's decision to air an outrageously partisan film with no attempt to offer an alternative view is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, something that Sinclair and the Bush administration both favor. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.